

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 9 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the allegedly “admitted prior art.”

Claims 10-16, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-8 and 17-22 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 10 to rewrite it in independent form by including the features of claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. As a result, if the instant Amendment is entered, claims 1-8 and 10-22 will remain pending for consideration.

All Remaining Claims are Now in Condition for Allowance

Claim 9 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the allegedly “admitted prior art.” Claims 10-16, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have amended claim 10 to rewrite it in independent form by including the features of claim 9 in light of the Office Action’s indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10, as amended, is now in prima-facie condition for allowance. In addition, claims 11-16 are allowable at least because of their dependence on newly-amended

independent claim 10. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 10-16 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-8 and 17-22 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the Amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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